

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 ACDA-19 NASA-04 SCI-06 DRC-01

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P R 302320Z JAN 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2522

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 0330

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR UN PFOR

SUBJ: OUTER SPACE: SOVIET INITIATIVE ON REMOTE SENSING

REF: USUN 0221

TODAY'S DOCUMENTATION CONTAINS USSR SUBMISSION  
RESPONDING TO JUL 1973 QUESTIONNAIRE ON EARTH REMOTE  
SENSING BY SATELLITE IN PREPARATION FOR THE 11 FEB-  
1 MAR SESSION OF THE OUTER SPACE COMITE'S WORKING  
GROUP ON REMOTE SENSING OF THE EARTH BY SATELLITES.  
USSR STATEMENT, WHICH APPEARS AS A/AC/105/C.1/WG.4/L.6/ADD.3,  
READS AS FOLLOWS:

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

### I. TECHNICAL ASPECTS AND REQUIREMENTS

1. AT PRESENT, THE COMPETENT SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAVE AVAILABLE  
INFORMATION FROM EXPERIMENTS ENABLING THEM TO ASSESS THE  
USEFULNESS OF SPACE TECHNIQUES FOR REMOTE  
SENSING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND EARTH RESOURCES (HEREINAFTER  
REFERRED TO SIMPLY AS REMOTE SENSING).

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2. A DECISION ON THE PROVISION OF SUCH INFORMATION MUST BE TAKEN IN EACH INDIVIDUAL CASE IN THE LIGHT OF THE NATURE OF THE INFORMATION AND OF THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH IT IS TO BE USED.

3. RESPONSIBILITY FOR CO-ORDINATING REMOTE-SENSING WORK HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE MAIN MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING:

THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE USSR, RESPONSIBLE FOR WORK CONNECTED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCIENTIFIC BASES FOR RESEARCH AND OF UNIFIED MEASURING TECHNIQUES;

THE USSR MINISTRY OF GEOLOGY, THE USSR MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, THE USSR STATE FORESTRY SERVICE, THE CENTRAL HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL SERVICE AND OTHERS, WHICH ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THOSE ASPECTS OF THE QUESTION THAT RELATE TO THE ACTIVITIES OF EACH OF THESE MINISTRIES AND DEPARTMENTS.

4. SPACE TECHNIQUES (TOGETHER WITH AIR AND GROUND TECHNIQUES) CAN MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE STUDY OF OUR COUNTRY'S NATURAL RESOURCES IN ALL THE FIELDS MENTIONED IN THE BACKGROUND PAPER.

IN VIEW OF THE EXPERIMENTAL NATURE OF PRACTICALLY ALL THE REMOTE-SENSING PROGRAMMES NOW BEING CARRIED OUT THOURGHOOUT THE WORLD, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO GIVE A SUFFICIENTLY ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE UTILIZATION OF SPACE TECHNIQUES FOR THESE PURPOSES.

SATELLITE INFORMATION IS BEING USED TO ADVANTAGE IN VARIOUS FIELDS, INCLUDING GEOLOGY, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY, HYDROLOGY, PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, FISHING, METEOROLOGY, OCEANOGRAPHY, CARTOGRAPHY AND MANY OTHERS.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON REMOTE SENSING AND ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE DATA DERIVED THEREFROM TO THE ABOVE-MENTIONED FIELDS IS CURRENTLY BEING CARRIED OUT BY SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS AND HIGHER EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS.

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5. QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE SUPPLY OF SATELLITE INFORMATION TO APPROPRIATE BRANCHES OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY ARE SETTLED IN THE LIGHT OF THE NEEDS OF EACH BRANCH FOR SUCH INFORMATION.

SATELLITE INFORMATION IS USED TO STUDY LONG-TERM PROCESSES LASTING UP TO SEVERAL YEARS AND SHORT-TERM PROCESSES LASTING UP TO SEVERAL DAYS.

6. THE COMPETENT SOVIET AUTHORITIES ARE CARRYING OUT A REMOTE-SENSING PROGRAMME USING BOTH AUTOMATIC AND MANNED SPACE VEHICLES.

SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH IS ALSO BEING CARRIED OUT THROUGH THE PERMANENTLY FUNCTIONING METEOROLOGICAL SYSTEM KNOWN AS "METEOR".

REMOTE-SENSING WORK IN OUR COUNTRY IS CONSTANTLY BEING EXPANDED.

7. THE COMPETENT SOVIET AUTHORITIES ARE INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING FOREIGN CONNECTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF REMOTE SENSING.

## II. ORGANIZATIONAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS

8. IN THE VIEW OF THE COMPETENT SOVIET AUTHORITIES, THE BASIC MEANS FOR GATHERING, PROCESSING, STORING AND DISSEMINATING REMOTE-SENSING DATA SHOULD BE A SYSTEM OF NATIONAL CENTRES PAID FOR BY THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED. IN VIEW OF THE GLOBAL NATURE OF REMOTE-SENSING WORK, THERE SHOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY CLOSE AND REGULAR LINKS BETWEEN THESE CENTRES FOR THE EXCHANGE OF DATA AND OF SCIENTIFIC MATERIAL WHICH WOULD BE OF ASSISTANCE IN MAKING THE MOST EFFECTIVE POSSIBLE USE OF THE DATA FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES. PENDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WIDE NETWORK OF NATIONAL CENTRES, AT THE EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH STAGE, IT WOULD SEEM APPROPRIATE TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A SINGLE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF REMOTE-SENSING DATA. THE CENTRE MIGHT ALSO BE ATTACHED TO ONE OF THE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

SUCH A CENTRE SHOULD BE FINANCED THROUGH VOLUNTARY  
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CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED.

WE SUGGEST THAT THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE SHOULD HAVE THE FOLLOWING MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

(A) TO COLLECT VARIOUS REMOTE-SENSING DATA VOLUNTARILY SUPPLIED BY STATES IN A FORM AND AMOUNT AGREED UPON WITH THE CENTRE;

(B) TO PUBLISH AND DISTRIBUTE LISTS OF AVAILABLE MATERIALS;

(C) TO ORGANIZE THE DISTRIBUTION OF DATA AT THE REQUEST OF INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES;

(D) TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE BY SUPPLYING FACILITIES FOR WORK

WITH MATERIALS WITHIN THE CENTRE ITSELF AND BY ORGANIZING  
PHOTO INTERPRETATION CONSULTATIONS;

(E) TO STUDY THE NEEDS OF COUNTRIES AND THEIR RELATIONSHIPS  
WITH THE CENTRE AND WITH NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CENTRES.

THE STAFF OF THE CENTRE SHOULD INCLUDE EXPERTS FROM THE  
VARIOUS COUNTRIES WHICH ARE ENGAGED IN REMOTE SENSING.

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9. AT PRESENT WE DO NOT HAVE ANY PLANS TO ESTABLISH A NETWORK  
OF STATIONS TO RECEIVE ERTS DATA.

10. AS INDICATED IN PARAGRAPH 7 ABOVE, THE COMPETENT SOVIET  
AUTHORITIES ARE WILLING TO CO-OPERATE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES  
IN MATTERS RELATING TO REMOTE SENSING, INCLUDING THE STUDY  
OF THE FUTURE ADVISABILITY OR NECESSITY OF OPERATIONAL REMOTE-  
SENSING SYSTEMS. SUFFICIENT TIME MUST, HOWEVER, BE ALLOWED  
FOR THE COMPLETION OF A WIDE RANGE OF EXPERIMENTS AND IN-  
VESTIGATIONS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE NATURE AND EFFECTIVE-  
NESS OF SUCH SYSTEMS.

11. AT THE PRESENT TIME, IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY VALUABLE  
IF THERE WERE EXTENSIVE CONTACTS AT BOTH THE NATIONAL AND  
THE INTERNATIONAL LEVELS BETWEEN VARIOUS SCIENTISTS AND

ORGANIZATIONS IN ORDER TO EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE IN THE USE OF SCIENTIFIC TECHNIQUES FOR THE INTERPRETATION OF REMOTE-SENSING DATA, TO HARMONIZE THE TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS OF ON-BOARD AND GROUND EQUIPMENT AND TO CO-ORDINATE EFFORTS AIMED AT MAKING EXTENSIVE PRACTICAL USE OF THE INFORMATION OBTAINED AND DETERMINING COST-EFFECTIVENESS.

WE BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO PROVIDE  
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FOR THE TRAINING OF SPECIALISTS THROUGH WORK AT NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND ALSO THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF TRAINEES.

12. EFFORTS MUST BE MADE TO PREPARE DRAFT PRINCIPLES ON THE USE OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY BY STATES FOR THE EXPLORATION OF EARTH RESOURCES. THE DRAFT PRINCIPLES FORMULATED BY THE USSR DELEGATION AT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP (A/AC.105/111, PARA. 48) COULD SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR SUCH WORK.

THIS IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE TO ITS LEGAL SUB-COMMITTEE (A/9020, PARA. 29).  
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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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